World Alliance News Letter

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The Open Door

The Editorial Council of the World Alliance News Letter takes pleasure in presenting this New Year's greeting prepared by the President of the American Council of the World Alliance:

In the Book of the Revelation, St. John writes: "I have set before thee an open door." That seems to me as apt a figure as any to represent the New Year. Life is one long succession of opening and closing doors and, although every day is a new beginning, the advent of a New Year awakes in multitudes of people serious thought of opportunity missed in the past and of new ones to be seized—in other words, closed and open doors.

So far as the quest for peace is concerned, we can see with regret many closed doors before which we once stood with great hopes. Numberless have been the resolutions, alliances, peace treaties which were to abolish war from the earth, including the League of Nations with its high promise.

In this instance America refused to enter the open door, and now that door is closed, resulting not only in the awful World War just ended, but dashing the hopes of multitudes of people who now feel the cause is hopeless. Abroad today in many quarters there is small interest in building a peaceful world. Indeed there is much cynicism and despair of ever achieving it.

Yet there is now another door open before us, namely, the United Nations. To be sure, there have been great difficulties and discouragements. The intransigence of Russia, the veto, the fears of many small nations, the misunderstandings and distrust among the great powers, and above all the atom bomb, make some people wonder whether this open door really leads anywhere. The result is that many people have scant hopes of any worthwhile accomplishment. Some are even talking about and planning for what they consider inevitable—the next war!

From a merely humanitarian standpoint there is ground for such skepticism. When one observes the inveterate selfishness of human nature in individuals and groups within every country as well as between nations, and the multitudinous and complex problems facing mankind, one is driven almost to despair.

Indeed, there is no hope on the merely human level. Instead of advancing, man seems determined on his self-destruction. Miss Frances Perkins quotes Franklin Roosevelt in his estimate of Wilson:

> "He was a Presbyterian, you know, and a tough one, and he was perfectly sure that all men are sinful by nature. He figured it out that Western civilization would attempt to destroy itself through the natural sinful activities of modern man unless, by the grace of God, the decent people of Western civilization resolved to support the doctrine of the Golden Rule."

Personally, I think Wilson was right, for without the grace of God our civilization is doomed to destruction.

But there is the grace of God. Ultimately events are in God's control. As says the well known hymn:

> The ploughing of the Lord is deep,
> On ocean and on land.
> His furrows cross the mountains steep,
> They cross the sea-washed sand.
>
> Wise men and prophets know not how,
> But work His sovereign will;
> The kings and nations drag the plough
> His purpose to fulfill.

With this faith, Christians can never be pessimists. They believe, no matter how black things may seem, that God *does* give man another chance and sets before him an open door.

But He will not force him to enter.

Right here lies the chief task of such an organization as the World Alliance. It must see the open door and persuade men to enter. It must sense the possibilities of the United Nations, give the UN whole-hearted support, and induce men everywhere to do the same. It need never give up hope because, in the end, God will have the victory.

The journey may be long and weary. It will require patience and faith as well as insight and courage. But even if we are never destined to dwell in the New Jerusalem of peace on earth, it is something to have our faces set in the right direction and our feet walking in the way. There will be many open doors ahead of us in the days to come. God grant that we may have the vision to recognize them and the courage to enter. So doing, may the coming New Year be for you all a happy and profitable one in His ~~service as~~ we stand hopefully before its open door.

G. Ashton Oldham

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Items of Interest

An Item on the Education Agenda

A recently released survey of the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Denver reveals the need for education of the American people. Here the churches bear a major part of the responsibility. The survey showed that, in the United States today, about one-third of the people think the United States should own outright the Pacific islands which our troops captured from Japan; another third of the population believes that the United States should not own the islands outright but should be given full power to govern and fortify them; and the other third contend that this country should share control with the other members of the United Nations. A change in the thinking of the American people has taken place, however, it should be pointed out, because a similar survey ten months earlier showed that, in February of 1946, a significantly larger proportion — a forty percent plurality — believed the United States should own the Pacific islands outright, although today only thirty-one percent hold this view. Last February fifty-three percent of the people were against outright annexation, in contrast to more than sixty-two percent today. This survey shows first, that the minds of men do change and secondly, a big job of education has still to be done.

"The Highest and Purest Democracy . . ."

In these postwar years when men are prone to forget for what they fought and quickly succumb to the poisonous hate ideas of such groups as the Columbians and the Ku Klux Klan, our church people should be reminded of a sermon delivered in the summer of 1945 by Lieutenant Colonel Roland B. Gittelsohn, Jewish chaplain of the Fifth Marine Division. When Chaplain Gittelsohn helped dedicate the cemetery on bloody, windswept Iwo Jima, he said:

> "Somewhere in this plot of ground there may lie the man who could have discovered the cure for cancer. Under one of these Christian crosses, or beneath a Jewish Star of David, there may rest now a man who was destined to be a great prophet. . . . Now they lie here silently in this sacred soil, and we gather to consecrate this earth to their memory. . . .
>
> "Here lie officers and men, Negroes and whites, rich men and poor. . . . Here no man prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color. Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or allowed. Theirs is the highest and purest democracy.
>
> "Any man among us the living who . . . lifts his hand against a brother, or thinks himself superior to those who happen to be in the minority, makes of this ceremony and of the bloody sacrifice it commemorates, an empty, hollow mockery. . . ."

"The Best Years of Our Lives"

Ministers and church school teachers are often hard-pressed to recommend a moving picture which, in their minds, illustrates most effectively the truths they try to present to their people. Too often church folk are urged to see movies of lesser caliber, films which, in an effort to be "spiritual," tend to indulge in bathos. But now the movie industry has produced a film which avoids sentimentality and exaggeration of emotions. It is "The Best Years of Our Lives," now being shown in local theatres. The story of three veterans and their return to civilian life is told with dramatic skill and sensitive perception. A cast of splendid actors gives an impressive performance marked by integrity, intelligence, and good taste. The film critics have vied with each other in a search for superlatives by which they might do justice to this moving picture. But simple words describe it best. It is a performance of beauty and understanding. To see it is to grasp the fact that an America, healthy in every phase of its democracy—economic, social, and political —is the best contribution which can be made to the kind of peace we all seek.

Work of Pittsburgh Friends

During the past twenty-five years friends in Pittsburgh have clearly demonstrated their deep interest in the activities of the Church Peace Union and the World Alliance. Two of our Annual Meetings have been held in that city and on each occasion enthusiastic cooperation has come from organizations, churches and individuals. Recently, an indication of more than ordinary interest among our friends there, has come in the form of financial aid for the expanding program of the World Alliance. Mrs. Harry G. Samson and Mrs. Louis Reizenstein have headed committees to seek support for our work at this critical time. Words cannot convey how encouraging to everyone at 70 Fifth Avenue have been their efforts. Our work has grown to such an extent that additional gifts are absolutely necessary if we are fully to respond to the calls made upon our time. We are grateful to everyone in Pittsburgh who has helped us. We hope the idea may spring up in many other cities.

United Nations Help for Africans Requested

Two conferences recently appealed to the Assembly of the United Nations to create machinery through which the colonial peoples of Africa may participate in the agenda of the international organizations which concern them. The first conference, at which twenty separate groups were represented, urged the establishment of the right of African peoples "to freedom, self-support and political autonomy." The African Academy of Arts and Research, gathered in another meeting, discussed colonialism and world peace. The delegates requested the United Nations actively to promote self-government among the African peoples, declaring that the continuation of colonialism and imperialism in Africa directly negated the basic purpose of the United

Nations. The Academy emphasized that many of the fundamental human rights—such as trial by jury, freedom of the press and of speech, of assembly and association, as well as personal liberty—are commonly denied to African peoples.

Bishop Oxnam Decries Talk of War

In an address delivered at Buck Hill Falls before the annual meeting of the Board of Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Church, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, former president of the Federal Council of Churches, declared that our primary task in this decade is to avoid a Third World War without compromising our basic convictions. Bishop Oxnam said that when we ask, "Must we fight a Third World War?" we are actually asking, "Is war inevitable between the United States and Russia?" He asserted that: "Communism cannot be conquered by force of arms. Far-seeing leadership will not put contemporary privilege before future security. Men who summon us to a holy war against communism are not only declaring war on Russia, but are diverting our attention from the primary obligation to democratize our own economic, political, ecclesiastical and social life."

Carnegie Endowment Officers

The trustees of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, at their meeting in New York on December 9th, elected Mr. John Foster Dulles of New York, chairman of its board of trustees and Mr. Alger Hiss of Washington, D. C., of the U. S. Department of State, as president. Last May the trustees amended the by-laws to provide for a chairman of the board and a full time president who will be the executive officer. Mr. Hiss will assume his duties after January 1st, following his resignation from government service. The Endowment's new president was executive secretary of Dumbarton Oaks Conversations on International Organization and Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on International Organization, in San Francisco.

Study Leaflet on Atomic Energy

Have you arranged meetings in your community on the international control of atomic energy? Have you made use of the excellent study leaflet prepared by the education secretary of the Church Peace Union and World Alliance? This study leaflet is based on Livingston Hartley's booklet, "Atomic Key to the Future," which is a summary (with explanatory comments) of the U. S. atomic energy proposals. Write to our office, Suite 1005, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y. for both the booklet and the study leaflet, and then organize a class in your church to discuss this vital issue. Let us know the conclusions at which you arrive in your dicussions held in your Sunday School, men's club, or women's association. We want to know what you are doing and thinking. You can thus help us in the formulation of our program.

"The Toonerville Trolley"

A contemporary journal recently quoted a story by Dr. Joseph Sizoo about the Toonerville Trolley:

> It was proceeding at its usual pace. The irate passenger asked, "Can't you go faster?"
>
> The skipper replied, "Sure I can. But I like to stay with my trolley."
>
> The rabbi or minister, Dr. Sizoo was further quoted as saying, "will lose all influence unless he is staying with his people. If you're too far ahead, you do nothing for them and hurt yourself."

Whereupon the editor commented that too many of our ministers and educators "are interested in staying with the snail-like trolley. That is probably why so many of our people use other means of travel."

C.A.R.E. and Its Troubles

C.A.R.E. (Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe), which is located at 50 Broad Street, New York, has encountered difficulties recently, due to the fact that many of its $15. packages, designated for needy persons in Europe, have not been delivered. The administration for handling more than 2,000,000 orders was beset with many complex problems, not the least of which were getting the packages to the people in war-torn lands. Some of the problems were transportation, inadequate addresses, reorganization of the local staff, the grounding of Constellation planes, the loss of receipts in plane crashes, and the general upheaval of post-war society in Europe. Due to duplicate receipts, all misdirected or lost packages will be replaced. The packages will be traced if at all possible. Recently C.A.R.E. was able to purchase large surpluses at lower prices and now offers a reduced rate of $10. per package.

Suggestions for Ministers

Newspaper editors throughout the country are ready and willing to accept sermon material for publication in their newspapers, but they repeatedly remind ministers of the necessity of keeping copy brief. Ministers, when they speak on national or international themes, are urged to submit, not the entire text of the sermon or address, but rather a selection of two or three pungent paragraphs which make good copy. The seeming reluctance of editors to use ministers' material can be traced to an unwillingness to plough through an entire sermon or speech in search of the more important parts.

Important Pamphlet on World Order

A significant manual suggesting 58 suggested programs, 95 books and pamphlets, 50 moving pictures, and proposals for action, has been issued by the Unitarian Commission on World Order under the title "World Order: What Local Groups Can Do." It is the companion piece of that group's statement of policy, "One Day—Undivided Brotherhood." This booklet, prepared by the secretary of the Commission, the Rev. Irving R. Murray, may be secured at 5c per copy either by writing to this office or to 25 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

The United Nations Comes of Age

Pessimism, like a fog, shrouded Flushing Meadow on October 23rd when the Assembly of the United Nations met. Only a few people felt enough could be accomplished to avert the tragedy of a new war. Calamity howlers had a field day. Critics were on hand, with sharpened pencils and ample notepaper. In the subsequent days differences of opinion and petty quarrels were played up, while the few hopeful facts that might have been praised were passed over in silence. When the sessions ended, however, on December 15th, the fog had lifted. An American delegate remarked: "We can now see the sun of a new day in international affairs."

UN's Vindication

The United Nations has vindicated itself. It has proved the wisdom and faith of the men and women who drafted the Charter at San Francisco. Every informed person realizes that there is much still to be done—and speedily—to make secure the results achieved in the General Assembly. No one is naive enough to believe that peace is "just around the corner." But a glance at the chart shown on the opposite page will show that the United Nations is now a fully organized world agency capable of meeting the difficult problems still facing mankind.

What did the General Assembly accomplish that might be called remarkable? Here is a categorical resume of the main achievements:

Disarmament. A plan by which the heavy load of armaments may be lightened was outlined when a resolution was adopted, affirming the principle of the reduction of armaments, international control of the use of atomic energy, and troop withdrawals from occupied countries. But it needs specific terms to eliminate all weapons designed for mass destruction and to establish inspection safeguards. Nations, most heavily involved, will have to be willing to give up their veto on these issues.

Use of the Veto by the Big Five. Although efforts failed to insure the abandonment of the veto, a resolution was passed asking great powers to show "restraint in exercise of the veto."

Site for Headquarters. The Assembly voted to accept an extensive area bordering the East River in New York City and to build there a permanent site for the UN.

Iran. Through the efforts of the Iranian Government the long-standing Iran-Russia dispute was retained on the agenda of the Security Council.

Spain. The Franco Government in Spain, a threat to world peace even before World War II, was the object of long and heated debate. In a compromise resolution, the member nations were asked to withdraw from Spain the chiefs of their diplomatic missions.

Greece. The Greek Government brought before the Assembly charges against Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Albania for allegedly fomenting guerrilla warfare within Grecian territory. The matter, not settled, is still in the hands of the Security Council.

Trusteeship Council. The Trusteeship Council, formally set up by the Assembly, completes the structure of the United Nations as provided in the Charter. The Assembly accepted trusteeships, under the terms of the Trusteeship Council, of the territories held under mandate of the League of Nations by Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Belgium, and South Africa.

Union of South Africa. The proposal of the Union of South Africa to annex the mandate of Southwest Africa, former German colony before World War I, was rejected after heated debate, and South Africa was requested to submit a trusteeship agreement for that territory. In spite of the objection of South Africa a resolution was passed condemning racial discrimination against the Indians in that country.

International Refugee Organization. The IRO provides for the continuance of refugee work formerly carried on by UNRRA. This act was one of the most helpful things accomplished by the Assembly.

Narcotics Control. The responsibilities of the League of Nations for narcotic control were accepted by the UN.

Public Information. Approval was given for the holding of "An International Conference on Freedom of Information" to be held at the end of 1947.

Genocide Outlawed. The Assembly unanimously declared the crime of "genocide"—the extermination of national or racial groups—a violation of international law for which even private individuals may be punished. Member states were called upon to enact statutes against this crime and to take part in an international conference on the question.

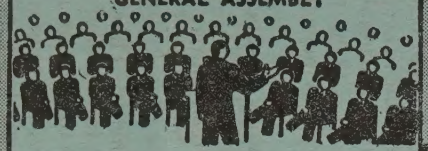
UN Achieves Maturity

With such achievements, we may well say that the United Nations has now not only established itself, but has come of age. The debates in the Assembly made it indeed a sounding-board of the world, the "Town Meeting of the World." The strain between the East and West was lessened. Delegates from Russia and nations friendly to her discussed freely with the nations of the West, the common problems which face us all.

The United Nations is by no means a perfect organization, but its successful operation thus far indicates the methods by which it will be perfected. Under the aegis of this world organization the nations working together and seeking new techniques for meeting their problems will come to know each other better and will develop more respect for each other. Inevitably they will have more sympathy for the difficulties each encounters both at home and abroad. The United Nations deserves the undivided loyalty of all men and women of goodwill everywhere. *It has earned the right to claim such support.*

THE U. N. STRUCTURE AS THE ASSEMBLY ENDS ITS SESSIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

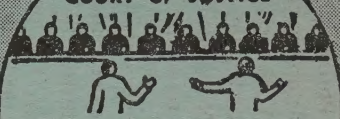


Composed of delegates from fifty-four member nations. Discusses questions relating to peace, security and other matters under Charter. Makes recommendations to Security Council.

SECURITY COUNCIL

Eleven members—the Big Five permanent, other six elected for two-year terms by Assembly. It investigates international disputes; takes action against aggressors if necessary.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE



Fifteen members chosen by the Assembly. They meet in permanent session to decide "judiciable" disputes which arise between nations.

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Includes Big Five and all nations that administer trust territories; some others elected by Assembly.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Eighteen members elected by Assembly. Coordinates affiliated organizations to remove economic, social roots of war.

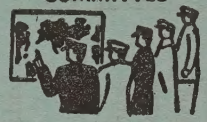
SECRETARIAT

Secretary General at head; includes research, administrative staffs; reports to Assembly, Security Council.

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

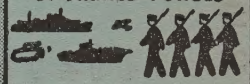
Includes eleven members of Security Council plus Canada. Considers problems relating to atomic energy.

MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE



Composed of Chiefs of Staff of the Big Five. Under Council, will direct forces against any aggressor nation.

INTERNATIONAL CONTINGENTS OF ARMED FORCES



To be composed of readily available forces, provided by all members for putting down threats to peace.

EDUCATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Organized to foster world intellectual cooperation through education, science and culture.

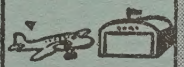
FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Research and study organization; endeavors to raise world food and nutrition standards.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION

Includes labor-management delegates; to raise world employment, welfare standards.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION



Deals with the complex economic and legal problems in commercial air transportation.

INTERNATIONAL BANK

Established by the Bretton Woods agreement. Provides loans for reconstruction.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Also part of Bretton Woods plan, to be used by members to help stabilize currencies.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Will serve as research organ and as an information center on world medical developments.

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION

Partial successor to UNRRA; will care for refugees, resettle displaced persons.

Graphics Institute, N.Y.C.

On the Political Front

Big Four Peace Talks

The Council of Foreign Ministers may look back on its recent meetings in New York with considerable satisfaction. The meetings started on anything but an encouraging level. As in the previous Paris meeting, the Russians and the Americans seemed unable to reach agreement. But in the last week of November things suddenly began to move. One by one, peace treaties with Italy, Hungary, Finland, Rumania and Bulgaria were completed. Agreement was achieved on the principle of free commerce on the Danube. The troublesome Trieste question, which virtually stymied the Paris meeting, was settled.

The recent reasonable attitude of the Soviet representative in both the Council of Foreign Ministers and the General Assembly has received favorable reaction both here and in Russia. There is, however, a tendency in the United States to look the gift horse in the mouth and search for hidden Russian motives. Several reasons seem plausible. First of all, the Soviet government, like the governments of the other great powers, faces public pressure for a reduction in the size of its armed forces. This, in addition to the financial drain and the need to solve the internal problems of reconstruction, would encourage a conciliatory attitude. The stiffened attitude of the United States, which was made apparent privately and publicly to the Soviet representatives, may also have convinced them that the time for an understanding was at hand.

How far the powers are willing to go in compromise and conciliation can be determined only after the meeting of the Foreign Ministers Council in Moscow, March 10th. Paris, London, and New York have all been host to the Big Four. It's Moscow's turn now. She is proud of her hospitality for all international conferences. She has agreed to allow freedom for the foreign press. Stalin himself has always been a more reasonable negotiator than his emissaries and his nearness may hasten vital decisions. The first concrete steps have been taken. The way is clear for resolving the big political question of Germany.

Headquarters Decision

A year ago the question of a permanent site for the home of the UN seemed a simple problem. It might have remained so, but in some areas of New York and Connecticut certain residents indicated strong displeasure at having the world's capital in their vicinity. Their attitude threw the problem into a confused snarl.

Nine different UN bodies and innumerable sub-committees studied and debated proposed sites. Three site inspection groups traveled 20,000 miles and surveyed 155 square miles of land. The selection of a site was debated in three plenary sessions of the Assembly. In all this time, while Boston, Philadelphia, and San Francisco were considered, it was no secret that most of the delegates wanted the New York area. But the dramatic last-minute offer of Mr. Rockefeller solved the problem. Four days after the UN received word of the offer, the Assembly voted 46 to 7 to accept it.

The enthusiasm and speed, with which it was voted to accept the New York site, were indicative of the improved spirit in evidence during the last two weeks of this session of the Assembly. The prestige of the UN has now reached its highest peak, and the last Assembly sessions laid the ground work necessary for a settlement of problems which endanger the peace.

The Assembly did the work it was meant to do. It acted as a sounding board for world opinion; it exposed the facts out of which world order must come; it served as a voice for the small as well as the large powers; and it sought practical solutions instead of utopian ones.

Congress Meets

The newly elected Congress, soon to convene in Washington, will be subjected to strain when international questions arise for discussion. The bi-partisan support which, until now, has undergirded our foreign policy will be tested.

The prime issues emerging in United States foreign policy during the winter and spring of 1947 will be:

Emergency food relief. The demise of UNRRA and multi-lateral arrangements of relief makes the United States solely responsible to keep Europe and Asia from hunger by purely bi-lateral agreements.

Immigration. The laws should be liberalized so that past and present quotas may be used on a flexible basis.

Trusteeship. Our intentions must be clarified and our convictions strengthened.

International Trade Organization. The United States acceptance must be accepted without any crippling reservations.

Reciprocal trade agreements. They do not need Congressional approval for renewal but may be killed by riders attached to appropriation bills.

World economic agencies. Appropriations must be encouraged, rehabilitation loans approved, and adequate budgets allowed for occupation troops and feeding in American occupation zones.

A clear, courageous, and forthright policy of American participation in international affairs demands support from both sides of the aisle for such a program. At the close of World War I, the peace was sabotaged because both major political parties could not unite in forging a strong program of international cooperation. If confusion and timidity prevail this time, United States participation in the UN is hampered, and the peace is jeopardized.

World Alliance News Letter

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The World Alliance News Letter, *published every month, except July and August, by the Church Peace Union and the American Council of the World Alliance for International Friendship Through the Churches, is sent to all members of the World Alliance. Individual memberships are $1.00 a year and quantity rates for churches and schools can be arranged. Office Address: Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, General Secretary, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y. Officers, Church Peace Union: Rev. William P. Merrill,* Pres., *Rev. Ralph W. Sockman,* Vice Pres. *American Council of the World Alliance: The Rt. Rev. G. Ashton Oldham,* Pres.; *Bishop James C. Baker, Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, Most Rev. Francis J. Haas,* Vice Presidents.

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Community Activities

The Editorial Council welcomes material for this column. Our readers are invited to tell us of peace activities in their community. What are you doing on behalf of world order in your churches, schools, and clubs?

Veterans' Forum in Dayton

A series of Veterans-As-Citizens Forums, known as VAC Forums in the Veterans Administration Center, have been held monthly for the nearly 3,000 veterans stationed at the Dayton, Ohio Center. On November 18th, George Hook spoke on the subject, *What Veterans Can Do For World Peace;* on December 11th, Jack Patricoff, a local attorney, discussed *A Square Deal for Vets;* and on January 15th, Thomas Townsley of Wilmington, Ohio, will present *A Poultryman's View of Russia.* These programs, arranged by Chaplain George L. Cutton, are similar to forums he planned during a three year assignment at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D. C. Further information concerning these and kindred projects may be secured by writing directly to Chaplain Cutton.

Boston Series

In the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, Massachusetts, early this winter, the Department of Christian Education of the Diocesan School arranged a remarkable series of lectures and discussion hours on "Understanding Soviet Russia and Great Britain." On successive Thursday evenings over a period of two months, the groups heard lectures on the following subjects: *Russia's Foreign Policy, Russia's War Devastation Problem, Soviet-United States Relations in the Far East, The Bases of Anglo-American Understanding, Britain's Economic Position, British and Soviet Interests in Europe,* and *Britain's Colonial Problem in Relation to American Foreign Policy.* The authorities who presented these subjects included such men as Edwin B. Goodell, Jr., Sgt. Leonard Bernhardt, Dr. Edward L. Young, Raymond Dennett, Professor Albert E. Irving, Professor John B. Rae, Ernest Pisko. This project was a follow-up of last winter's major course on the United Nations, and was designed to further understanding of the deeper tensions and problems confronting the two great powers. The Dean of the Diocesan School was the Rev. Ivol I. Curtis, and the Executive Secretary was the Rev. David R. Hunter.

Forums in New York City

Christ Church on Park Avenue at 60th Street, held its annual forum recently on the subject, *Today's Responsibilities.* This international, non-sectarian, and non-partisan forum presented an array of outstanding authorities during its sessions which lasted two days. The themes of the four major sessions were: *Perils and Promises Ahead, Labor, Education and the Orient, Thoughts That Shape Men's Lives,* and *Men and Women in a Crowded World.* The guest speakers included: Rabbi Stephen Wise, Dr. George E. Haynes, Dr. Stoyal Gavrilovic, Katherine F. Lenroot, Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, Grove Patterson, Nelson Cruickshank, Dorothy Dunbar Bromley, Kermit Roosevelt, Jr., Hon. John D. Winant, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, and Senator Leverett Saltonstall.

The Congregation Emanu-el of the City of New York, Fifth Avenue and 65th Street, is presenting each Sunday morning, a lecture series of authoritative speakers on the major problems of our day. In November, Prof. Hans Kohn spoke on *The Call of Prophets,* and Prof. Conrad H. Moehlman on *Christianity and the United Nations.* In December, Prof. Salo W. Baron spoke on *World Jewry Looks to America;* Sir Norman Angell on *The Sickness of the Public Mind;* Rev. Dr. Samuel H. Goldenson on *The Future of Reform Judaism in America;* Lewis Mumford on *What Must We Save?;* Waldo Frank on *This Decisive Hour.* In January, Miss Freda Kirchwey is scheduled to speak on *The American Foreign Policy in World Affairs,* and Dr. Edward Teller on *Atomic Energy and Its Social Significance.* In February, Prof. Carter Goodrich is slated to speak on *Planning in the American Tradition;* Dr. Frank Aydelotte on *Palestine;* Dr. Lynn Harold Hough on *This Strange Creature, Man.* And in March, Dr. John A. P. Millet is scheduled to speak on *The Contributions of Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis to Social Welfare,* and Prof. Oscar I. Janowsky on *Peace in a World of Power.*

The purpose of the Church Peace Union and World Alliance is to promote international friendship and peace and to mobilize into a conscious force for international goodwill, all men and women who share in the great hope of a world in which war will have been abolished.

"Glass House Politics"

World Friendship is, of course, a magnificent idea. The minds of children could not be turned in a better direction or to a nobler purpose. Neither could the minds of adults, for that matter.

Peace is a far greater enterprise than football, or the learning of Latin and calculus, and its existence is far more precarious than that of Dick Tracy or "Terry and the Pirates."

A child often lives to be three score and ten, but the life expectancy of peace has, in the recent past, hardly exceeded one score and five.

There can be no question that this occasion and the movement it represents are admirable in concept, in fact, and in principle; but may I, at the risk of introducing a forbidding note at this gathering, mention a principle which I believe to be dangerously and inversely related to world friendship? Let us call it the principle of *glass house politics.*

By this I mean the kind of politics which, living in a glass house, throws stones in all directions and expects to be struck by none in return. It is glass house politics for any country to speak of peace, democracy, unity and freedom if any of those elements are conspicuously missing within that country. It is glass house politics for a country to subscribe to the Charter of the United Nations while, within its own charter, there is contempt and discrimination for whole millions of its people and never an opportunity to share in the benefits of society. It is glass house politics to believe that the keeping of peace does not have important beginnings at home as well as ramification abroad.

We have all seen all too tragically that the reverse of keeping of peace, the making of war, certainly begins at home. It began at home in Germany, Italy and Japan, and for years we watched it progress and mature under the stimulus and direction of local fascism, a fascism whose effects soon enough involved the whole world.

I, for one, am convinced that peace is just as contagious as war. I doubt if there is any region in the world which would not welcome an epidemic of peace for a long time.

It is an inspiring thing for children to form a World Friendship Council, and we pray that God will increase their work. But, in the name of the same God, let there be increasing help from their elders. Let the finger of warning and accusation always be pointed to injustice and iniquity, yes, by all means, but make very sure that the pointer is not enclosed in glass, with a roof of glass over his head and walls of glass around him. Only in this way is there likely to be a breaking of glass, and subsequently a breaking of the peace.

Have pity for the children, gentleman of the United Nations, and do your work well. Their lives as well as ours depend on it.

NORMAN CORWIN

Suggested Reading

The Strength We Need by George Fielding Eliot. Viking Press, New York. $3.

An authoritative and ardent plea on behalf of the United Nations. Major Eliot presents a clear analysis of world power and shows how it should be used in the present transition period with its threats and dangers, asks that this power be used to maintain American security which he considers indispensable to the security of the world. An effective, powerful book.

Now to Live by Ralph W. Sockman. Abingdon Cokesbury Press, $2.00.

An excellent, timely series of radio addresses. The usual vivid phrase and acute insight of Dr. Sockman abound in these twenty-five sermons. Helpful as a homiletical aid and as a source of spiritual strength.

Wind in the Olive Trees by Abel Plenn. Book Find Club, New York. $3.00.

A definitive work on Franco Spain, objectively written by one whose sympathies nonetheless are clearly with the Republicans. A well-documented background account, based on Mr. Plenn's experience in an official capacity for the American government. Spain, says he, is a launching platform for a third world war, because a neo-German economic, military, and scientific organization already established in Spain, and the bitter economic rivalry for the prize of Spain existing between Great Britain and the U.S.A.

The Great Challenge by Louis Fischer. Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York. $4.00.

Russia's "nationalism, expansionism, pan-Slavism, and totalitarianism" impel Mr. Fischer to demand that the Western powers deal with the "Russian problem" immediately – but neither by appeasement nor by fighting. Rather should they "stop Russia now" by (1) cleaning their own houses of injustice and (2) actively fostering movements for freedom and social democracy throughout the world.

America at the Crossroads by John M. McCullough. 12 pp. Reprinted from *The Philadelphia Inquirer,* Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

A series of six articles providing a preview of the atomic war of the future. Written by a member of *The Inquirer's* Washington Bureau. Mr. McCullough, who witnessed the two atomic bomb tests in Bikini Lagoon, emphasizes the compelling responsibility which the discovery of the atomic bomb has placed on us.

One Day . . . Undivided Brotherhood

World Order: What Local Groups Can Do. Unitarian Commission on World Order, 25 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass. 5c.

This searching statement of "current objectives for all who would build peace," together with the booklet of detailed program and action notes, will be invaluable for the local social action or peace committee. Many concrete suggestions.